Dr. Sun would either have been assassinated, or once more found it necessary to seek refuge abroad. After his death the process of "Leninization," inspired by the Soviet advisers to the Party, and carried out by the left-wing leaders, proceeded apace, transforming him from a discredited and execrated agitator into a legendary hero. The Chinese as a race are peculiarly susceptible to mass psychology. It was successfully exploited in this instance. Sun Yat-sen, who during the last years of his life was a querulous, intolerant, and swollen-headed autocrat, dead, was converted by skilful propaganda into a demigod. His lucubrations acquired practically scriptural authority. His political testament became a national Creed.

Before dealing, however, with the events that followed his death, an estimate of his character and attainments may be attempted. It is to his credit—though the same cannot be said for certain members of his family—that wealth, as such, never appealed to him. He collected and spent on wasteful and destructive efforts, enormous sums of money, but never enriched himself thereby. Some observers have credited him with a large amount of personal magnetism, which blinded many of his followers to his shortcomings. The latter were numerous. He was vain and boastful. He loved to strut about in uniform, surrounded by bodyguards, and to organize ceremonies of which

he was the centre. He fancied himself infal-
>* fible both as a political and a military leader. He
'~+a» unscrupulous to the point of flagrant dishonesty.
lie, who during the last years of his life fulminated